

# BILL FONTANA

Tel 415 345 8655, Fax 415 345 8656

Email: [bfontana@resoundings.org](mailto:bfontana@resoundings.org)

- Born:** Cleveland, Ohio, 1947
- Resides:** San Francisco
- Education:** New School for Social Research, New York, B.A. 1970  
Cleveland Institute of Music, 1967  
John Carroll University, Cleveland, 1965-67
- Awards:**
- Prix Ars Electronica, 2009, Linz, Golden Nica Lifetime Achievement Award in the Digital Music Category
  - Bay Area Treasure Lifetime Achievement Award, SFMOMA, 2009
- Fellowships:**
- Center for Cultural Innovation, Investing in Artists Grant, 2007
  - Artadia 2005 San Francisco Bay Area Award
  - Research Fellowship, Arts Council of England, 2004-2005
  - Artists Fellowship, National Endowment for the Arts, 1990-91
  - John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, 1986-87
  - US/Japan Fellowship, Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission, 1985-86
  - Berliner Künstlerprogramm des DAAD, 1983-84
  - Composers Fellowship, National Endowment for the Arts, 1979
- Web Site:** [www.resoundings.org](http://www.resoundings.org)
- Teaching:** School of the Art Institute of Chicago: Distinguished Visiting Professor 2011 -2012  
University of Birmingham, UK, Department of Electro-Acoustic Music, 2004-2005  
Academy of Media Arts, Cologne ( 2000 to 2003)  
San Francisco Art Institute, 1995-1997  
Sorbonne, Paris (1994-95)

## Selected Commissions and Sound Sculptures:

- Soaring Echoes, Pritzker Pavillion, Millennium Park, Chicago, 2012
- Acoustical Visions of the Golden Gate Bridge, For Site Foundation, San Francisco, 2012
- White Sound – An Urban Seascape, Wellcome Trust, London, 2011
- Sonic Shadows, SFMOMA, 2010
- River Sounding, Somerset House, London, 2010
- Tyne Soundings, Baltic Center for Contemporary Art and Sage Gateshead, Newcastle, 2009
- Spiraling Echoes, San Francisco Art Commission, 2009
- Speeds of Time, Tate Britain, London, 2008
- *Objective Sound*, Western Bridge, Seattle, 2007
- *Panoramic Echoes*, Madison Square Park, New York, 2007
- *Harmonic Bridge*, Tate Modern, London, 2006
- Speeds of Time, Palace of Westminster, London, 2004
- *Primal Soundings*, Leeds City Gallery and Contemporary Art Society, 2004
- *Speeds of Time*, BBC, London, 2003
- *Falling Echoes*, Creative Time, New York, 2002
- *Acoustical Visions of Venice*, 48<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale, 1999
- *Wave Memories*, Trafalgar Square, National Maritime Museum, London, 1999
- *Time Fountain*, Fundació Antoni Tapies, Barcelona, & Reina Sofia, Madrid, 1995
- *Sound Island*, Arc de Triomphe, Paris, 1994
- *Soundbridge Cologne - Kyoto, 1993 - simultaneously installed in Cologne and Kyoto at the Museum Ludwig and National Museum of Modern Art Kyoto*
- *Vertical Water*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, 1991
- *Landscape Soundings*, Vienna Festival, Kunsthistorisches Museum, 1990

- *Sound Sculptures through the Golden Gate*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 1987
- *Entfernte Züge (Distant Trains)*, Berliner Künstlerprogramm des DAAD, West Berlin, 1984
- *Oscillating Steel Grids along the Brooklyn Bridge, World Trade Center and Brooklyn Museum, New York*, 1983
- *Sound Recycling Sculpture*, Akademie der Künste, West Berlin and Musée d'art moderne de la ville de Paris, s1980
- *Sound Sculpture with Resonators, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, 1978*
- *Kirribilli Wharf*, Australian Broadcasting Corp and Sydney Opera House, 1976

#### **Selected Permanent Installations and Works in Collections**

- *Sonic Passage*, San Antonio River Foundation, San Antonio, Texas, 2009
- *Acoustic Journey*, Cultural Mile Project, Enschede, the Netherlands, 2009
- *Pigeon Soundings*, Kolumba Museum, Cologne, Germany, 2007
- *Objective Sound*, Western Bridge, Bill and Ruth True Foundation, Seattle, 2007
- *Spiraling Sound Axis*, Weatherspoon Art Museum,, University of North Carolina Greensboro, 2007
- *Natural Song Lines*, Kent County Courthouse, Providence, Rhode Island, 2007
- *Primal Soundings*, Leeds City Gallery and Contemporary Art Society, 2004
- *Musical Information Network Lyon*, Lyon Tramway Line 1, 2001
- *Echo Phases*, Simeon Properties Emeryville Tech Center, Emeryville, CA 2000
- *Wave Phases at Chesil Beach*, National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, U.K., 1999
- *Sound Sculpture with a Sequence of Level Crossings*, 1982/1997, digitally remastered eight-channel installation, collection of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
- *Wave Trains*, 1996, Mülheimer Brücke subway station, Cologne, Germany
- *Earth Tones*, 1992, Oliver Ranch, Sonoma County, CA

#### **Selected Environmental Sound Recording and Sound Design Projects:**

- Sound Design for a pavilion designed by Foster and Partners for London Architecture Week in 2008
- *Sonic Landscaping*, NBBJ Design, Seattle, 2004-2006
- *Ants, Sounds of the Rainforest of Trinidad and Army Ant Habitats*, California Academy of Science, 2004
- *Antigone*, Dusseldorf Schauspiel Haus, 2002
- *Sounds of the British Coast*, National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London, England, 1997 to 1999
- *Sounds of the Old City of Jerusalem*, DAAD Berlin, 1995 to 1996
- *Australian Rainforests*, Australian Broadcasting Commission, 1988
- *Farallon Island Soundscapes*, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, 1988
- *Sounds of Hawaii*, Hawaii Public Radio, Honolulu, 1986
- *Acoustic Journey*, An Investigation of Traditional Japanese Sounds on the Verge of Extinction, Wacoal Art Center, Tokyo, 1985
- *Rainforests of Thailand*, Jungle World Exhibit, New York Zoological Society, 1984
- *Soundscapes*, 365 Four Minute Radio Programs on Environmental Sound, National Public Radio, 1982 to 1983
- *Wild California*, Natural Sounds of California, Oakland Museum Natural Sciences Department, 1979
- *Australian Sound Studies*, Australian Broadcasting Corporation, 1973 to 1978

#### **Selected Bibliography:**

- Alan Riding, "The Sound Artist Bill Fontana Amplifies the Tate Modern's Millennium Bridge", New York Times and International Herald Tribune, June 20, 2006
- Jøran Rudi, "From a Musical Point of View, the World is Musical at any Given Moment" an Interview with Bill Fontana, *Journal of Organized Sound*, Volume 10.2, Cambridge University Press, 2005
- Robert Riley, "Bill Fontana – Speeds of Time", Haunch of Venison, London, 2005
- Mary Blume, "Portrait of Bill Fontana," *International Herald Tribune*, July 9, 1994
- Bill Fontana, *The Relocation of Ambient Sound*, Leonardo Volume 20 # 2, Pergamon Press, Oxford, 1987 and republished in Volume 41, Issue 2, 2008
- John Rockwell, "Sound Island," *New York Times*, June 18, 1994
- John Hanhardt, Heidi Grundmann, and Werner Fenz, *Landscape Soundings*, Vienna Festival, Vienna, 1990